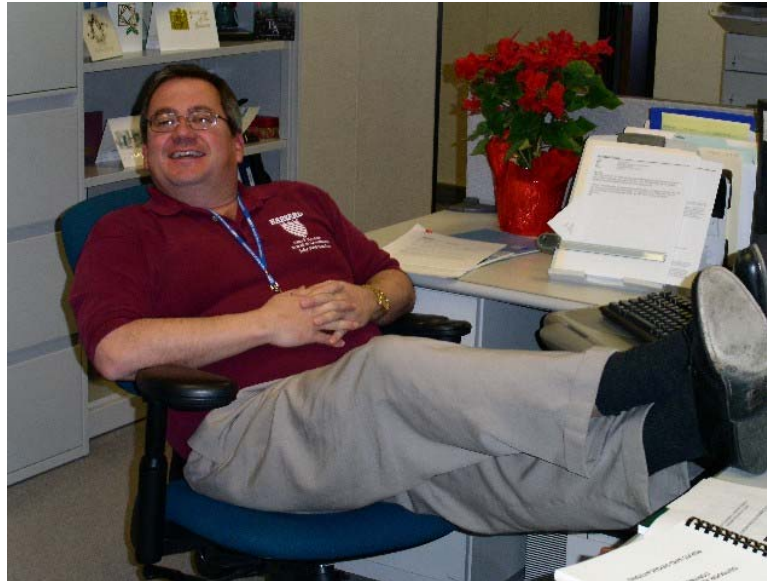


ON TRACK WITH MDT

I can hardly believe my time with MDT is drawing to a close, but my last day is quickly drawing near.

I have tried to imagine what it will feel like to shut down my computer and walk out of my office for the last time, leaving behind the many challenges, frustrations and joys that my time as director of MDT has brought my way.

Thankfully, the joys have outweighed the frustrations, and I will forever be grateful for the opportunity I was given to serve at the helm of MDT. It is a terrific organization staffed by the most dedicated group of people I've ever met, and the memories of my time working with them –and you – will stay with me always.



Happy holidays. It's been a pleasure working with you!

As I look back over my tenure as director, I must say that I am pleased with some of the major strides we've made, including the following:

- ◆ The passage of .08 BAC (blood alcohol content) legislation during the 2003 legislative session
- ◆ The passage of tougher repeat offender statutes during the 2003 legislative session
- ◆ Reaching agreement on US 93 from Evaro to Polson; working with the governor's office to authorize the sale of Garvee bonds to accelerate construction; getting the eight projects designed; and letting the first project in October 2004
- ◆ Having the highest contractor payments on record in fiscal year 2004
- ◆ Developing MDT's strategic business plan and reconfiguring the employee evaluation process to tie the plan directly to employee appraisals
- ◆ Becoming one of a handful of states that is CVISN level 1 certified. CVISN, or Commercial Vehicle Information System Network, is the result of a partnership between the Montana Departments of Transportation, Justice and Administration, with support and participation from the Montana Motor Carriers Association. Its goal is the integration of commercial vehicle and driver safety information that resides in various state and federal systems into a single architecturally compatible information-sharing network. By querying a carrier's US DOT number or license plate number through CVISN, Montana now has real-time access to critical data.
- ◆ Completing the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process for U.S. Highway 2 from Havre to Fort Belknap. This resulted in the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

signing the Record of Decision on November 22, 2004, identifying the improved two-lane with passing lanes design as the selected alternative for the corridor.

That said, I know there are challenges ahead as the transportation industry awaits a new highway bill and as the state of Montana deals with emotion-charged issues such as open containers, a primary seat belt law and a graduated drivers license program.

Having worked with all of you for the past several years, I know that you'll tackle these challenges head on and keep our wonderful state moving forward with the times.

It truly has been an honor working with you.

Thank you, and God bless.

Dave Galt
Director